

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
BOROUGH OF TOTNES
for the year 1939.

Mr Mayor and Members of the Council.

As the usual Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health is to be limited to urgent matters connected with the War and the usual statistical details are to be kept until later I need only remark that we have a Mobile Unit and other A.R.P. measures in working order.

Measles have been made a notifiable disease and no outbreaks of disease have affected the public health during the year 1939.

Ian Jeffries

Medical Officer of Health
for the Borough of Totnes.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Borough Engineer, Surveyor
and Sanitary Inspector.

Year Ending December, 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Madam & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my
Eleventh Annual Report as follows:-

House Refuse. No complaints have been received in the manner in which the House Refuse was collected; but a complaint was received relating to rats on the Refuse Tip. When this was investigated it was found that evidence, as to the possibility of the nuisance, had been destroyed.

Quite recently the Ministry of Health has made certain suggestions with regard to the collection of waste paper etc., and this is receiving consideration.

Water Supply. Samples have been taken during the past year and the analysis of them undertaken by the County Analyst. In all cases except one, excellent results were obtained. The doubtful case referred to one of the minor springs at Higher Bowden and, on receipt of the analysis, this was immediately cut off from the Town's supply. As this particular spring usually fails during the summer months its exclusion is not noticed.

Approximately eight million gallons of water were dealt with by the King George Jubilee purification works - as against fifteen million gallons in the previous year, this reduction being brought about by the wet summer season and the discontinuance of building operations owing to the outbreak of war. The water tower at Follaton and the pump house at Dartington have been camouflaged and sandbagged as a protection against air raids.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

In March an informal inquiry was held on the question of borrowing £1,600 for renewals and alterations at the Sewage Outfall Works and a favourable result was received some time afterwards. On the receipt of the loan sanction tenders were advertised for and the lowest accepted. The work is progressing favourably, but delay is being caused by the late delivery of certain machinery.

A relief sewer has been laid in Sparrow Road to deal with storm water trouble.

The Pumping Station in Shute Road has been protected by sandbags.

Buildings and Bye-Laws.

After several sub-committee meetings the Model series of Bye-Laws were amended and forwarded to the Ministry of Health. They were returned; but the Ministry had deleted most of the amendments. The Bye-Laws were eventually approved and came into force in August last.

Plans have been approved for the past year as follows:-

Alterations, additions etc.	27.
New Houses.	14.

Housing. The list of inspections with regard to dwellings will be found in the report of the Medical Officer.

No houses have been erected by the Corporation during the past year; but two schemes were about to be approved when the commencement of hostilities prevented their continuance.



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Slum Clearance.

At the outbreak of War about 50 houses were to be dealt with under this portion of the Housing Act and application was being made to the Ministry of Health. Here again the schemes have had to be postponed.

Pleasure Grounds.

Minor improvements have been carried out on the Borough Park and the Island.

Tennis and Bowls were played on four Sundays in August; but at a loss.

The takings, compared with last season, were as follows:-

		1939.			1938.		
Hard Courts.	...	27.	14.	2.	24.	7.	1.
Grass Courts.	...	5.	8.	4.	2.	18.	11.
Bowls.	...	24.	2.	2.	21.	4.	6.
Clock Golf.	...	-	-	-	-	1.	10.
Chairs.	...	6.	2.		-	-	-
		-----			-----		
		£57. 10. 10.			£48. 12. 4.		
		=====			=====		

Meat & Food Inspection.

Slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected; but it is understood that when meat rationing commences all the meat supplied in Totnes will be sent from Paignton.

During the year all condemned food was voluntarily surrendered as follows:-

Beef	...	1 carcase and 2 forequarters.
Pork.	...	20 Carcases.
Hams.	...	2.
Steak.	...	24lbs.

In addition to the above many hundredweights of diseased offal, heads, etc., have been condemned and voluntarily surrendered.

Highways.

The mileage of the Main and District Roads remains the same.

Several improvements were carried out during the year and most of the Main Roads, and some of the District Roads, have been completed with asphalt.

Although it does not come under my purview work was commenced on the Westerly Extension to the By-Pass in March last and proceeded apace until September. After the outbreak of war the work slowed up and at the moment of writing it still continues.

Street Lighting.

Several new lamps have been added during the past year, the total now being 182.

Under a Home Office order all street lamps were permanently extinguished at the outbreak of war.

Last month (December) the lighting regulations were somewhat relaxed; but the Corporation, quite wisely in my opinion, decided not to avail itself of the facilities offered, the result not being commensurate with the cost.

Markets.

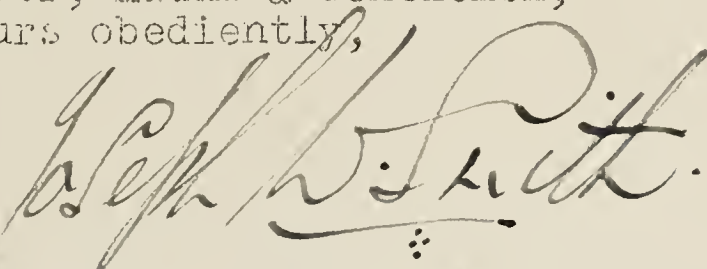
The improvements at the Cattle Market, carried out during the previous year, proved satisfactory and no serious complaints were received.

The receipts from the Market Weighbridge were £25. 19s. 6d. as against £26. 17s. 0d. in 1938. The receipts from the Pannier Market Parking Place for the past year amounted to £92. 13s. 8d. as against £122. 1s. 10d. for 1938. The decrease no doubt being due to petrol rationing which came into force in September last.

Conclusion.

I desire to thank the Mayor and Members of the Corporation for their support, also my colleagues for their excellent co-operation, the outdoor staff, my pupils, and last, but not least, Mr. Parr and Miss Bennett for their undivided loyalty and attention.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Madam & Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph W. Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and titles.

M.Inst.M & Cy.E., M.R.San. I., F.I.S.E.
Borough Engineer, Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector.

